



COLONEL JOHN B. BARRANCO, USMC

Colonel Barranco was commissioned through the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1993, with a Bachelor of Science in History. Following graduation he reported to The Basic School as a member of Delta Company 4-93.

After graduation from TBS, Col Barranco reported to flight school and was winged in October 1995. In January 1996, Col Barranco reported to HMLAT-303 in Camp Pendleton, California for AH-1W training. Upon completing HMLAT-303, he was assigned to HMLA-169 and deployed on three MEUs with HMM-161 (1997), HMM-165 (1999) and HMM-163 (2001). While deployed on the USS PELELIU with the 15th MEU (SOC), the September 11th 2001 attacks occurred and the 15th MEU (SOC) conducted the initial Marine action in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). Col Barranco served as the Escort Flight Leader (EFL), the lead attack pilot, for the invasion. Following OEF Col Barranco reported to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) in Yuma, Arizona for duty as an AH-1W instructor pilot. During his tenure at MAWTS, he deployed to Iraq in 2003 for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) as an augment member of HMLA-269. Following MAWTS-1 and a tour on the MAG-39 staff, Col Barranco was assigned to HMLA-369 and completed two more tours to OIF in 2005-2006 and 2007. He reported to Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) Aviation in February 2008, where he served as H-1 Transition Task Force (TTF) Lead from February 2008 until April 2010. Col Barranco assumed command of The Watchdogs of VMU-1 on 13 June 2010 while deployed to OEF. Following a second deployment to OEF 2011-2012, he turned over command in June 2012 and reported to The Eisenhower School, National Defense University for Top Level School. Following school, Col Barranco served as the J-33 Homeland Defense Division Joint Operations/Theater Security Branch Chief from 19 June 2013 to 15 May 2015. From May 2015 until February 2016 he was the Executive Officer to the Commander of U.S. Southern Command, General John F. Kelly USMC. Col Barranco was then reassigned to HQMC Aviation where he served as the APX Branch Head from February 2016 until August 2016, and as APW-1, the Aviation Programs and Weapons Requirements Branch Head from August 2016 until July 2017.

Col Barranco is a graduate of the USMC Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, Expeditionary Warfare School, Command and Staff College, and a Distinguished Graduate of The Eisenhower School. He has logged over 3500 hours in the AH-1W. Col Barranco's personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two individual Air Medals, one with Combat V, Strike/Flight Air Medal 20th award, three Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals, one with Combat V and two Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals.